



Report for the Year: 2018

Name of Ringing Centre: The Troyte Ringing Centre

Name and Address of Correspondent:

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Facebook: N/A

Please answer Yes or No.

Yes

No

- | | | | |
|--|--------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Did your Centre receive a Founders Grant? | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Is your Centre currently recognised by the CCCBR? | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Is your Centre recognised by ART? | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Does your RC have a functioning simulator? | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Does your Centre have any of the following? | | | |
| a. Clapper ties? | | <input type="checkbox"/> | X |
| b. Effective Sound control? | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. A dumb bell? | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. A Model bell? | | <input type="checkbox"/> | X |
| e. A collection of educational/ringing books? | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. A video camera? | | | Teachers provide own kit |
| g. Toilet facilities? | | | Nearby public toilets used |
| h. A teaching area? | | | Church naves used |

Yes

No

- | | | | |
|--|--------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 6. Do you normally offer refreshments? | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

- | | | | |
|--|----------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 7. Are the refreshments Fair Trade | | <input type="checkbox"/> | X |
| 8. Is the number of teaching sessions you offer rising year on year? | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Is footfall at your Centre rising? | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. Have you offered anything new in the last 12 months? | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. Do your donations/fees exceed expenses? | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. If you were asked to send us a copy of your [independently examined] accounts could you do that? | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13. Are all your face-to-face teachers DBS cleared? | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14. Have all your key people attended Safeguarding Training? | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15. Have you supplied the RC committee with a copy of your constitution/rules? | Attached | | |
| 16. Does your Centre have a written Health & Safety Policy? | | | In Preparation |
| 17. Is there an insurance policy in place for Centre activities? | | | In Preparation |
| 18. Have you cited CCCBR recognition when applying for grant aid in recent years? | | | X |
| 19. Does your centre advertise activities or report on past events in | | | |
| a) The Ringing World/Bellboard? | | <input type="checkbox"/> | X |
| b) Ringing Centres Facebook? | | <input type="checkbox"/> | X |
| 20. Is your centre able to teach new ringers to handle from scratch on behalf of other towers? | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please gives dates: -

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 21. When was the last annual meeting of the body that runs your RC? | March 2018 |
| 22. When was the last formal meeting of the body that runs your RC? | January 2019 |

Please give figures: -

23. In the last 12 months, how many sessions of an hour or more have made use of the sound control or simulator? Inc local branch events 200 approx...

Please respond to the following. Write as much or as little as you like.

- *Please describe what you are most proud of achieving at your Centre in the last 12 months?*

We now provide opportunities for those wishing to develop their tower bell ringing skills to participate in TRC activities from basic bell handling to call change workshops and method ringing from plain hunt to a wide variety of doubles, minor, triples and major methods including quarter peals and peals.

○ *Please outline your plans for the coming year?*

Following risk assessments at both towers we have identified a small number of safety issues that need attention; these include improvements to emergency lighting provisions in bell chambers and clock chambers. We need to correct odd-struckness on two of our bells. We intend providing opportunities for the development of conducting skills, particularly in correcting method errors.

We are currently working towards obtaining insurance cover for the Centre's activities.

○ *What are your greatest concerns for the future?*

We need to recruit, train and retain a significant number of ringers for towers in our vicinity. There are too many towers which rely on visiting ringers to provide full bands to ring for Sunday services. There are several towers in our catchment area where the bells are difficult to ring and not suitable for inexperienced ringers. Some of our church communities see bell ringing as a relatively low priority.

○ *What provisions have you made to ensure the continuity of your Centre?*

In 2015 we became aware that most of our new recruits had relatively little interest in church membership. This was largely because of ageing church memberships and the almost total lack of recruits to ringing from existing church members. We have a very successful After School Bell club which is run in partnership with our local Church of England Primary School. However, young ringers have to do at weekends what their parents want and this leaves little opportunity for them to ring for Sunday services. Accepting that there was little more we could do to keep our church communities informed of our activities, we decided to become a registered charity and to provide bell ringing services for Sundays, weddings and blessings and other community-led ringing requests through written agreements with each Parochial Church Council. This we have done. These arrangements include the payments of grants from the TRC to each PCC to cover heating and lighting costs and to make donations towards tower maintenance and the mission work with local families and children. Each PCC has, at our request, opened an accumulating investment fund to which we make annual donations with the intention that when major works are required to bells or bell frames, the parishes concerned will not be required to raise large sums of money, when they might well be facing significant costs for maintenance work elsewhere.

Of course none of this guarantees the continuity of our Centre. What it does do is to indicate clearly that if a Ringing Centre is properly run with support from the local community, tower bells and their ringers will be seen as assets to the community rather than financial liabilities to the parishes in which the towers are located. In recent years our annual income from both towers has exceeded £5,000 and has been raised mainly from weddings, peals and community-led donations. This has enabled us to buy new ropes, have clappers rebushed and our sound control system upgraded. We run coffee mornings in church, we provide coffee and biscuits after Sunday morning services and we inform our communities when we ring for special occasions.

○ *What else do you want to tell us?*

We have not been over impressed with the support we have received from the Ringing Centres Committee in recent years. We have felt for several years that there would be great benefit from having occasional "sharing experiences" sessions between Centres.

○ *What help/assistance/advice are you seeking?*

We have discovered the hard way that it is not a simple process for charities to open a bank account. We started this process in June 2018 and we eventually received paying-in and cheque books in November 2018. So, for five months we were storing mounting piles of cash in the safe in our local bank until they opened the account into which we could bank our income and reimburse our trustees for the payments they had made on our behalf.

We are now producing the minimum documentation requirements – health & safety policy, written risk assessments and written training records – required by the Ecclesiastical Insurance Office before they can offer a quotation for cover. It is clear that they expect all organisations to have such things in place, but neither of the PCCs have a full set of these documents, so again we are spending considerable time and effort to provide the required documents. This is something that the Ringing Centres Committee or its successor might consider worthy of written guidance to all centres.

Entry on CCCBR website

Please check your current entry at: <https://ccbr.org.uk/services/ringing-centres/directory/> . If you do not wish to alter your current entry please say ‘no change.’

Current Entry (Revised):

Troyte Ringing Centre

Recipient of a Founders Company grant Recognised by the Central Council

Location

Bampton and Huntsham, Devonshire. OS Landranger Sheet 181

Contact

Michael Hatchett

01398 331843

Five Oaks, Bampton, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 9LE, UK

(email)

Website

www.troyterringingcentre.org.uk

Training activities

The Centre provides:

-weekly bell handling workshops (Bampton)

-weekly evening practices – Monday at Huntsham and Thursday at Bampton – Mondays concentrate on the early stages of method ringing, Thursdays provide opportunities for a range of five and six bell methods

– an annual training programme of about 10 Saturday events

– hosting monthly Branch advanced 6-bell and two 8-bell evening practices ranging from St Simon’s Doubles to Surprise Major

– a speaker with display boards and handouts for recruitment and/or raising public awareness talks.

Other activities:

– weekly peal attempts at Huntsham

– annual fund-raising programme